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By: **Chairman, Finance Committee (By Request - Departmental - Labor,  
Licensing and Regulation)**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2003

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harness Racing - Licensees - Takeout Allocation**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a harness track licensee's share of the takeout relating  
4 to purses and the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund to be allocated in  
5 accordance with a certain agreement; requiring that certain persons sign the  
6 agreement; declaring that this Act may not be construed to allow alteration of  
7 certain takeout allocations; and generally relating to harness track licensees.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - Business Regulation  
10 Section 11-617.1  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Business Regulation**

16 11-617.1.

17 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING § 11-617 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE AMOUNT OF THE  
18 TAKEOUT RELATING TO PURSES AND THE MARYLAND STANDARDBRED RACE FUND  
19 FROM THE SHARE RETAINED BY A HARNESS TRACK LICENSEE MAY BE ALLOCATED  
20 IN ACCORDANCE WITH A WRITTEN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY:

21 (1) THE LICENSEE;

22 (2) THE GROUP THAT REPRESENTS A MAJORITY OF THE STANDARDBRED  
23 OWNERS AND TRAINERS LICENSED IN THE STATE AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENT IS  
24 SIGNED; AND

25 (3) THE GROUP THAT REPRESENTS A MAJORITY OF THE STANDARDBRED  
26 BREEDERS IN THE STATE AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED.

1 (B) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PERMIT THE  
2 LICENSEE TO ALTER THE MANDATORY TAKEOUT ALLOCATED TO THE COMMISSION  
3 FOR:

4 (1) THE STATE TAX; OR

5 (2) THE PAYMENT TO THE RACING FACILITY REDEVELOPMENT BOND  
6 FUND FOR THE MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
8 effect October 1, 2003.